## Eleazer Oswald, Printer and Patriot

Lee felt under obligations to his two loyal friends, and in October of the following year he drew upon one of his acquaintances in Baltimore for one hundred pounds sterling in their favor.<sup>31</sup> He also showed his gratitude to them by giving in his will a one-third share in his estate in Berkeley, Virginia, to be divided equally between Oswald and Goddard.<sup>32</sup>

It is difficult to follow the activities of these two men during the period of their partnership. Their names did not appear as owners or editors of the *Maryland Journal* nor did they issue any publication with their imprint on it. Everything that was printed appeared under the name of Mary Katherine Goddard. But the fact that they were closely connected with the printing and editorial work of the paper is shown by the "Queries" affair and also by the item in the paper on April 10, 1781 which stated that they renounced all connection with Miss Goddard's business.

## OSWALD GOES TO PHILADELPHIA

The partnership probably came to an end in the late fall or winter of 1781, for on April 13, 1782 Oswald published the first number of the *Independent Gazateer*; or, the Chronicle of Freedom, in Philadelphia. It must have taken two or three months for him to assemble the materials for his new printing shop and to make the necessary arrangements for the newspaper so that it may be safely said that he left Baltimore late in 1781.

Oswald's paper immediately entered zestfully into the political controversies of Philadelphia, which involved the characters of a number of prominent citizens. Charges and counter charges appeared in the rival papers and the editors themselves became embroiled in the discussions. His career as a newspaper publisher was marked by a series of "paper battles" with his political opponents which on two occasions ended in court proceedings against him for libel and in another case caused a duel. The first controversy began in 1782 with Francis Bailey, the editor of *The Freeman's Journal: or, the North-American Intelligencer*. In a letter to Lamb on November 26, 1782 he bitterly complained of his enemies:

"I have lately been involved in a Newspaper Controversy with a Knot of vile Scoundrels in this City—Arthur Lee, Esqr their principal Scribe, and Bailey the Printer, their tool and vehicle for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Letter to ——— from Charles Lee, dated Baltimore October ye 17th 1780. In *Lee Papers*, Vol. III, pp. 448-449. <sup>22</sup> His will is printed in the *Lee Papers*, Vol. IV, 29-32.